



## *Happenings in the Office of Attorney General Steve Carter*

September 14, 2007

### **Attorney General Obtains Victory over Autodialers**

***“This is a vendor that has attacked Indiana’s law in federal court, seeking to stop me from enforcing a state consumer protection law that provides personal telephone privacy.”***

The United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit has ruled in favor of Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter in a case that challenged his authority to enforce the state’s automated dialing statute in state court. The law gives Hoosiers the ability to decide whether or not to receive certain pre-recorded telephone messages.

The ruling issued this week orders the United State’s District Court for the Southern District of Indiana to dismiss a lawsuit filed by Virginia-based telemarketer FreeEats.com against Carter.

The Indiana Attorney General’s Office sued FreeEats.com along with the Economic Freedom Fund (EFF) in 2006 after receiving a press release issued by FreeEats indicating that it makes pre-recorded message calls and that EFF was one of its clients. FreeEats has also stated that it made approximately 400,000 phone calls into Indiana over two days.

The attorney general also filed a lawsuit against American Family Voices, Inc. (AFV) for similar violations of the state’s law governing pre-recorded phone calls.

[News release.](#)

### **Consumer Protection Tool: Carter Announces Security Freeze Law**

On September 1, 2007, Indiana became one of about 40 states that allow residents to place a freeze on their credit reports. Attorney General Steve Carter, State Senator Gary Dillon (R-Pierceton), State Representative Joe Micon (D-W. Lafayette) & June Lyle from AARP Indiana say Indiana has also championed a law that is completely free to its citizens, unlike similar laws that have been passed across the country. The freeze gives the consumer the ability to restrict who accesses their credit report in most instances, providing a layer of protection against identity theft.

“There is no magic formula to eliminate the risk of identity theft, which can wreak havoc for an unsuspecting individual,” Carter said. “I anticipate this will be a welcome tool for many people and it gives Hoosiers an advantage in protecting themselves from financial and other fraud.”

[News release](#)

[Credit Freeze sample letters and FAQ’s](#)



Carter discusses the Security Freeze law along with State Sen. Pat Miller (R-Indianapolis). Sen. Miller was also a co-author of the law.

## **Attorney General Steve Carter, The Federal Trade Commission, and The century Council Team up for National “We Don’t Serve Teens” Week**

*Public service announcements airing statewide urging parents to speak up and discourage underage drinking*

Attorney General Steve Carter, the FTC, The Century Council, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and a variety of Indiana retailers teamed up to launch a public awareness campaign in Indiana to prevent underage drinking. The initiative, called “We Don’t Serve Teens,” was developed by The Federal Trade Commission and is designed to inform adults that providing underage drinkers with alcohol is unsafe, illegal, and irresponsible.



Attorney General Carter speaks along with Jim Calvert, Olinger Distributing, Brad Rider, United Package Liquors, Dave Heath, Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission Chairman, Jim Purucker, Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Indiana, Erik Strickland, The Century Council, and Chief Michael Spears, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Dept

The Program launched at United Package Liquors on Georgetown Road and was held in conjunction with “We Don’t Serve Teens Week,” a national effort aimed at educating adults on how youth obtain the alcohol they drink and how to discourage underage drinking not only during the back to school season, but also throughout the year. Attorney General Carter will be working with local and national partners to distribute “We Don’t Serve Teens” materials to make adults aware of the legal consequences associated with providing alcohol to people under 21.

[News release](#)

[Listen to Carter’s PSA](#)